

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for gelatinising starch and/or a starch derivative by subjecting starch and/or a starch derivative in the presence of a carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ to a thermo mechanical treatment, which carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic~~ comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde group per monomer unit which ~~one or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~ group is derived from ~~one or more~~ a primary alcohol ~~groups~~ group.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~ group is derived from ~~one or more~~ a primary alcohol ~~groups~~ group at the C-6 position.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein 1-50 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~ group per monomer unit.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, wherein 1-20 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~ group per monomer unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~claim 1, wherein the aldehyde containing monomer units in the carbohydrate polymer comprise in addition a cleaved vicinal diol system.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate polymer comprises α -1,4-glucans (the "starch family"), β -1, 4-glucans (cellulose), glucomannans and galactomannans (guar and locust bean gum), arabinoxylans and xylans (hemicellulose) and β -2, 1 and β -2,6-fructans (inulin and levan).

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the carbohydrate polymer comprises starch, cellulose, fructans, hemi-cellulose, and/or galactomannans.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the one aldehyde group is introduced in the monomer unit by means of protected aldehydes (acetals) or substituted unsaturated functionalities followed by oxidation of through hindered nitroxyl mediated oxidation.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermo mechanical treatment is carried out at a temperature in the range of from 80- 130°C.

11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermo mechanical treatment is carried out continuously.

12. (Currently Amended) A granulate of thermoplastic starch that comprises a carbohydrate polymer ~~or a synthetic polymer~~ in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as ~~plasticer~~plasticizer and water, which carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the aldehyde containing units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~group per monomer unit which one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~group is derived from ~~one or more~~ a primary alcohol ~~groups~~group.

13. (Currently Amended) A shaped starch product that comprises ~~thermo plastic~~thermoplastic starch and a carbohydrate polymer ~~or a synthetic polymer~~, wherein the carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ is present in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as ~~plasticer~~plasticizer and water, which carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1% of the aldehyde containing units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~group per monomer unit which one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~group is derived from ~~one or more~~ a primary alcohol ~~groups~~group.

14. (Currently Amended) A blown starch film that comprises a thermoplastic starch and a carbohydrate polymer ~~or a synthetic polymer~~, wherein the carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ is present in an amount in the range of from 3 to 75 weight %, based on total

thermoplastic starch, a polyol or urea as ~~plastic~~plasticizer and water, which carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1% of the aldehyde containing units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~group per monomer unit which one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~group is derived from ~~one or more~~a primary alcohol ~~groups~~group.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~starch or starch product~~granulate of thermoplastic starch according to claim 12 comprising in addition a polyester.

16. (Currently Amended) A food product that comprises a food component and a carbohydrate polymer ~~or a synthetic polymer~~, which carbohydrate polymer ~~or synthetic polymer~~ comprises aldehyde containing monomer units, whereby at least 1 % of the aldehyde containing monomer units comprise one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups~~group per monomer unit which one ~~or more~~ aldehyde ~~groups are~~group is derived from ~~one or more~~a primary alcohol ~~groups~~group.

17. (New) A shaped starch product according to claim 13, comprising in addition a polyester.

18. (New) A blown starch film according to claim 14, comprising in addition a polyester.

19. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermo mechanical treatment is an extrusion.